

Embrace Relief

Sustainable Development Goals General Report



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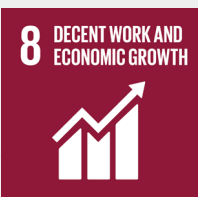
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Introduction to the SDGs and Embrace Relief’s Role

Since the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2016, the world has sought to make strides towards the progress of humanity. Programs and policies designed to expand healthcare resources and reduce the number of people living in conditions of extreme poverty have been effective but not sufficient to adequately address global issues of poverty and development. With only 11 years left to accomplish all 17 SDGs, these significant issues require global solutions designed to have sustainable impacts.

In accordance with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Embrace Relief sets strategic goals aimed at contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Embrace Relief’s mission to deliver research-based, sustainable solutions to achieve lasting improvements for individuals and communities has led to programs that contribute to the realization of the SDGs.

For instance, the Preamble to the 2030 Agenda states, “[we] seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.” Accordingly, Embrace Relief’s women’s empowerment campaign seeks to increase women’s participation in the formal economy by providing the vocational training necessary for gainful employment. As such, we have implemented vocational training programs for women in Kenya, Haiti, and the US. These initiatives have provided women with the means to economically contribute to their families and communities, a foundational component of the 2030 Agenda.

Similarly, SDG 6, “Clean Water and Sanitation” is reinforced in the over 270 water wells built in several countries that have provided clean drinking water to over 270,000 people in the developing world. Also, Embrace Relief has conducted 2,100 cataract surgeries and completed 15,350 health checkups globally, efforts that are essential for advancing SDG 3, “Good Health and Well Being”.

From education programs to hunger relief efforts, every initiative implemented by Embrace Relief is conducive to the foremost objectives of the Agenda for Sustainable Development, eradicating extreme poverty, decreasing human suffering, and ultimately, advancing humanity’s capacity to thrive in an increasingly interdependent world.

As such, this report examines the ways in which Embrace Relief contributes to the realization of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Approach to Sustainable Development

Embrace Relief is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit international humanitarian aid and development organization headquartered in New Jersey, USA. Established in 2008 by a founding team with extensive experience working in humanitarian contexts, we seek to leave a lasting impact on individuals and communities served. With a commitment to helping those who would otherwise have little to no other means of support, we have developed a distinct approach which has resulted in impactful initiatives encompassing healthcare, education, hunger relief, refugee aid, and clean water, among others. We have served hundreds of thousands of people in over forty countries by helping numerous communities address crises and build towards their sustainable future.

As a research-based organization, our approach incorporates direct engagement with members of communities served and a focus on providing long-term solutions to global challenges. Effectively, the impact of our approach has been a tangible contribution to the realization of several SDGs through a single project. Though applicable to all organizational efforts, the benefits of this approach are exemplified in our clean water campaign. For instance, in addition to contributing to SDG 6, clean water and sanitation, a water well we constructed in Djaarine, Chad has proven to contribute to five other SDGs. Initially, the water well helped achieved its immediate intended purpose - providing a source of clean water to a desolate community. However, after its construction, there was an undeniable ripple effect of sustainable development.

Precisely due to the construction of that water well, Djaarine transformed into a thriving community. With a supply of fresh water, locals were able to grow their own crops, contributing to SDG 2, eradicating world hunger. Access to clean water and agricultural abundance then allowed the people of Djaarine to start local businesses and establish a market. The flourishing local economy not only contributed to SDG 8, economic growth, but also SDG 1, eliminating poverty. Resulting from this economic growth were improved health conditions, SDG 3, as more medicine became available and more people could then afford the drugs they needed. Eventually, due to improved economic conditions, the people of Djaarine were able to fund the construction of another water well themselves, and Djaarine became a sustainable community as set forth by SDG 11.

Through construction of a water well, a sustainable, thriving community has been established. As a testament to our emphasis on effective research, we strategically chose an area that is conducive to building a flourishing community, which enabled our contributions to various SDGs possible. Ultimately, the efficiency of our approach has proven to have a significant, long-term impact towards the realization of the Goals. Through strategically planned initiatives, we at Embrace Relief are continuing to spark the chain reaction of sustainability all around the world, one project at a time.



1 No Poverty



2 Zero Hunger



SDGs 1 and 2 seek to eradicate poverty and global hunger, respectively, by 2030.

General Information

- Around the world, 1 out of 9 people suffer from undernourishment.
- In developing nations, as high as 1 in 3 children will experience stunted growth from poverty-induced malnutrition.
- Over 700 million people experience poverty in its most extreme form.
- The United Nations (UN) needs an average of \$267 billion yearly to end poverty by 2030.
- Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of deaths among children under 5 (3.1 million children each year).

“ Empowering people to raise their own crops and livestock to produce sustainable communities can end global poverty and alleviate hunger. ”

Background

Poverty and hunger create complex interconnected issues. Malnutrition prevents the employable to work jobs that allow them to provide for themselves above the poverty line. Poverty-induced hunger causes political instability, which can create a cycle of poverty. Other interrelated causes of hunger include climate change, increasing food prices, man-made and natural disasters, population growth, and the disappearance of resources to grow crops and raise livestock.



Global Impact of the Problem

Food scarcity dictates prices on the international market. According to the law of supply and demand, shortages and surpluses cause price increases and decreases, respectively. Price changes can be impacted by climate change, a lack of agricultural resources, and conflict or political instability. The private, public, and nonprofit sectors use short-term and long-term solutions to solve food scarcity-related problems.



These boxes portray the progression of how NGOs establish the foundations for the nonprofit, public, and private sectors to work with developing countries to create sustainable communities designed to implement solutions to alleviate poverty and hunger.

Short-term solutions intend to resolve problems in the immediate or near future. NGOs implement short-term solutions for hunger relief, which can include distributing food in emergency situations, such as natural or man-made disasters. Short-term solutions for hunger can be implemented through monetary donations to nonprofits, government assistance such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women Infants Children (WIC) benefits, and foreign aid.

Long-term solutions intend to solve problems in the distant future. Without NGOs short-term solutions, the international community would not be able to combat problems concerning long-term solutions, such as climate change, natural disasters, poverty, and population growth. For Embrace Relief, community development is the most effective solution, as it leads to the creation of a sustainable food supply and economic stability. Embrace Relief promotes the creation of sustainable communities by providing these developing areas with the information, knowledge, experience, and training needed to eradicate hunger and poverty.



Coherence Between SDGs 1 and 2

“God bless our sister family for helping us. Can we do something for them as well?”
RO. - 29, Female

The eradication of poverty as a result of SDG 1 can lead to hunger relief. SDG indicator 2.1 plans to end poverty-induced hunger, which causes malnutrition. SDG indicator 2.2 wants all people to have the ability to obtain nutritious food. SDG indicator 2.B intends to reduce tariffs, price gouging, and surges in food prices. As a result, all people will be able to afford food, irrespective of market price fluctuations, shortages, emergency situations, and conflicts.



The Ways To Accelerate SDGs 1 and 2



These boxes highlight potential efforts to promote the development of no poverty and zero hunger initiatives.



Campaigns designed to achieve a specific SDG may also unintentionally meet other SDGs. For example, SDG 6 (Clean Water) meets SDG 2 since the development of sustainable community water supplies enables the creation of irrigation and water storage to grow crops and raise livestock. As a result, communities can produce their own food supplies.

Embrace Relief's Contributions to the Realization of SDGs 1 and 2

- The distribution of over 1 million lb of food globally is one of the many ways Embrace Relief contributes to hunger relief in over 40 countries.
- Embrace Relief and a local Yemeni charity distribute food in-person and via distribution centers in Yemen.
- Embrace Relief responds to disasters by providing necessities such as food, clothing, and other relief goods to those affected. Past examples of Embrace Relief's aid include Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Maria, Hurricane Florence, the California wildfires, and the 2018 tsunami and earthquake in Indonesia.



Since 2015, the United Nations has encouraged the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to carry out anti-poverty and anti-hunger campaigns, which are designed to eliminate all poverty and hunger by 2030. Embrace Relief uses the short-term solution of feeding the hungry in more than 40 countries through various methods such as food drives, food donations, and soup kitchens. Resultantly, Embrace Relief fulfills SDGs 1 and 2 by providing people across the globe with their daily dietary and nutritional needs.



3 Good Health & Well-being



6 Clean Water & Sanitation



SDGs 3 and 6 seek to promote health and well-being along with universal access to clean water and sanitation.

General Information

- At least 2.3 billion people cannot access resources to meet basic needs.
- In developing countries, only 27% of people can wash their hands with clean water and soap.
- Globally, women compose the majority of cataract cases and the world's undernourished population.
- However, men undergo more cataract surgeries than women in the developing world.
- Worldwide approximately 21 million people or 51% of the blind experience cataract-induced blindness.



Background

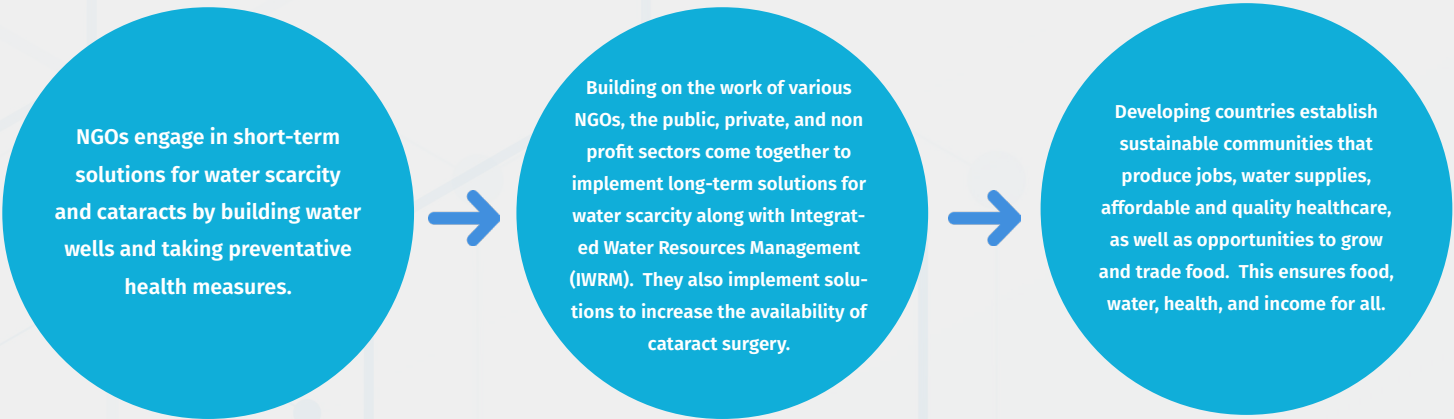
In rural areas in developing countries, people cannot meet their basic needs. Without clean water sources, communities cannot engage in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives to combat water-related medical problems. WASH initiatives can also help communities to develop their education, social, economic, and government sectors to become self-sufficient and sustainable. Social caste systems, limited financial resources, and lack of access to adequate and affordable healthcare are significant obstacles for those trying to obtain cataract surgery in the developing world.



The public, private, and nonprofit sectors deal with water scarcity and cataracts at different levels of government. The United States Government, United Nations, European Union, regional quasi-government organizations, the banking sector, and other governments all handle issues related to water scarcity. Nonprofits conduct educational programs and public service campaigns about cataract surgeries and their availability in rural and urban communities. In addition to cataract surgeries, nonprofits offer eye examinations and facilitate eyewear donations to promote eye health in the developing world.

Global Impact of the Problem

Water scarcity and cataracts can cause additional problems as well. For example, water scarcity can cause transboundary disputes over water sources on or around shared borders. Cataracts can cause blindness, which has repercussions such as the inability to work, disengagement in leisure activities, a lack of personal hygiene, and an increased dependence on others. Moreover, cataracts can have negative social implications, leading many to avoid cataract treatment. For instance, in developing countries, women are likely to secretly cope with cataracts to avoid adverse social effects.



These boxes portray the progression of how NGOs establish the foundations for the nonprofit, public, and private sectors to work with developing countries to expand clean water sources and improve health and sanitation practices.

Short-term solutions intend to resolve problems in the immediate or near future. NGOs implement short-term solutions for water scarcity and cataracts. Examples include building water wells and promoting eye health through preventative health measures, by providing regular eye examinations and eye glasses. Centralized water sources allow people to spend less time looking for water and more time focusing on fulfilling their other basic needs.

Long-term solutions intend to resolve problems in the distant future. Without NGOs' short-term solutions, the international community would not be able to combat problems requiring long-term solutions. Defined by The Global Water Partnership, IWRM is a strategy

for the local communities and the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to work together to create solutions for water scarcity issues. In regards to promoting the health and well-being of people, cataract surgeries are provided to remove cataracts and permanently restore the recipient's vision, which can improve a person's quality of life.

Coherence Between SDGs 3 and 6

Both SDGs 3 and 6 seek to promote healthier lives. These goals revolve around eye care health and WASH initiatives. SDG 3 supports creating affordable and accessible health care systems by urging the developed world to use its financial, medical, and technological resources to take action. SDG 6 supports engaging in WASH initiatives by ensuring that people have access to a clean water supply allocated by IWRM.

“I don't even know how to thank you verbally. Thank God you exist.”
F.S.- a mother of three who received relief aid



The Ways To Accelerate SDGs 3 and 6



These boxes highlight potential efforts to promote the expansion of clean water and improved health and sanitation practices.

Campaigns designed to achieve a specific SDG may also unintentionally meet other SDGs. For example, SDGs 1 and 2 (poverty and hunger) help meet SDG 3 as anti-poverty and zero hunger initiatives create opportunities that allow low income individuals from rural areas to access quality food, which can improve their health. In order to promote the expansion of quality healthcare practices, Embrace Relief provides easy accessibility to cataract surgeries, by supporting local organizations and training staff members. As a result of incomes rising over the poverty line, people will have easier access and will be able to afford necessities such as cataract surgeries and food.

Embrace Relief's Contributions to the Realization of SDGs 3 and 6

- Conducting cataract surgeries and routine eye examinations in Africa is an example of one of the many ways Embrace Relief helps in over 40 countries.
- In Mali, Embrace Relief has funded over 2,300 cataract surgeries
- As of April 2019, Embrace Relief has over 300 operational water wells throughout the world.
- Embrace Relief works along with IWRM to transform rural villages into self-sufficient and sustainable communities via the creation and upkeep of water wells.



Since 2015, the United Nations has encouraged the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to carry out health and well-being campaigns, which Embrace Relief designed to provide the healthiest lifestyles by 2030. Their campaigns to provide cataract surgeries and clean water take place throughout the world. Embrace Relief continues ongoing campaigns and creates new ones to ensure that individuals are being guided towards healthier lives. Initiatives for a healthier world are financed through various means, including generous donations to nonprofits. Donations received by individuals allow nonprofits, such as Embrace Relief, to make a difference. Embrace Relief employs IWRM to carry out WASH initiatives and to manage its over 300 water wells positioned throughout the world. Embrace Relief also focuses on political, social, agricultural, and economic development to promote the expansion of health initiatives. Embrace Relief fulfills SDGs 3 and 6 as exemplified by the examples below.

4 Quality Education



8 Decent Work & Economic Growth



SDGs 4 and 8 want all to have education and decent work, respectively, by 2030.

General Information

- 58% of the world's school-aged youth do not have basic reading and math skills.
- Over 192 million people are unemployed all over the world.
- From 2016-2030, the world economy must create 470 million jobs annually to keep up with newcomers to the workforce.
- U.S. high school dropouts are more than twice as likely to live in poverty than U.S. college graduates.
- More than 20% of U.S. school-aged children and adolescents live in poverty.
- Over 265 million children are currently out of school and 22% of them are of primary school age.
- At the global level, the participation rate in early childhood and primary education was 70% in 2016. The lowest rates were found in sub-Saharan Africa (41%), Northern Africa, and Western Asia (52%)



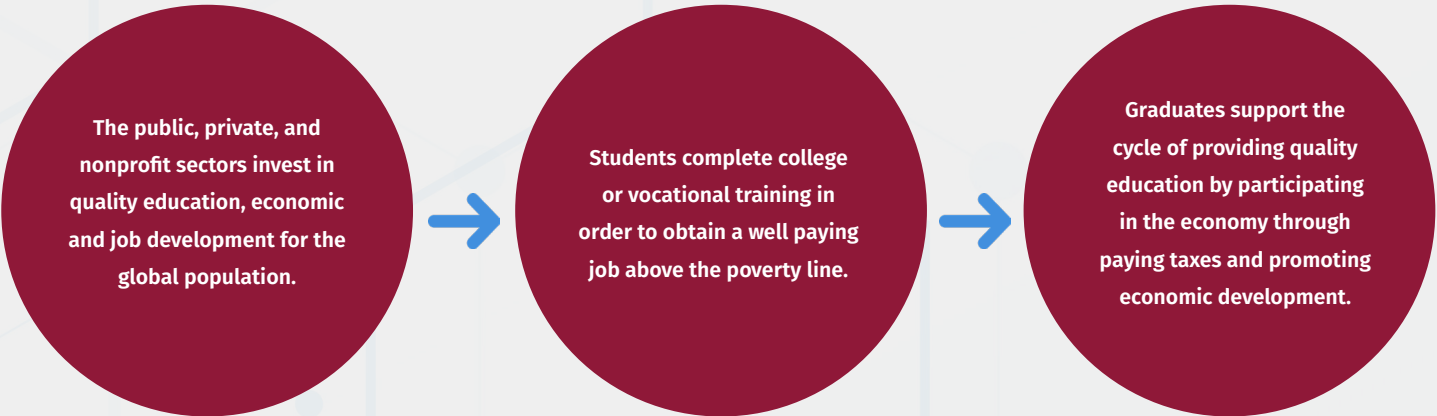
Background

Quality education is the key to succeeding in today’s world. Yet, obtaining a quality education can be extremely difficult, especially for low income students. Insufficient school budgets, a lack of accessibility and the high cost of education prevents many low income students for accessing quality education. The inability to access and afford quality education prevents students from individually mastering skills and encourages them to drop out of school.

Moreover, it can be difficult for low income individuals and impoverished areas to access and afford the same resources as affluent areas, such as attending quality schools and obtaining school supplies. As a result, the private, public, and nonprofit sectors work to provide educational resources to low income individuals and impoverished communities.

Global Impact of the Problem

A lack of educational resources in impoverished areas can lead to education deficits. The private, public, and nonprofit sectors can invest in education systems to promote the development of a well-educated population.



These boxes portray the progression of how the public, private, and nonprofit sectors invest in quality education to promote the expansion of advanced levels of education, in order to create a sustainable cycle.

Quality educational resources are more accessible to people living in affluent areas. In order to promote an equitable society, the public, private, and nonprofit sectors can create quality educational programs. Examples of educational programs include dropout prevention programs, dual enrollment programs, and afterschool programs.

The public, private, and nonprofit sectors can produce economic and community development by creating affordable quality education. Quality education can be made more accessible for all by increasing the funding for educational resources and school budgets. This will allow students to continue their education through completing college or vocational training.

Coherence Between SDGs 4 and 8

“To this day, I was giving to others...(Getting assistance is) a strange feeling now, but I’ll continue giving again one day.”
M.G.- Teacher, 34

SDGs 4 and 8 aspire to create job development through universal quality education. SDG 4 aims to provide students and teachers with the resources needed to create and maintain quality educational systems. SDG 8 aims to encourage investment in developing countries’ economies, which will be supplemented by increased levels of education. Encouraging economic and educational growth can lead to increased GDP and higher standards of living.



The Ways To Accelerate SDGs 4 and 8

These boxes highlight potential efforts to promote the expansion of quality education and economic development initiatives.



Campaigns designed to achieve a specific SDG may also unintentionally meet other SDGs. For example, SDGs 4 and 8 help meet SDGs 2 and 6, since the creation of sustainable food and water supplies requires trained workers, which expands economic development.

Embrace Relief's Contributions to the Realization of SDGs 4 and 8

- Embrace Relief and the FBI Newark Academy Alumni Association donate school supplies.
- Embrace Relief works with Eastside High School in Paterson, NJ on GradPlus, which offers need based students the resources necessary to obtain higher education.
- Embrace Relief supports a male boarding school, The Dogodogo Centre, and the Amani Village in rural Tanzania
- Embrace Relief assisted a school for Syrian refugees in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Embrace Relief awarded scholarships to refugees and students in rural Pakistan.



Since 2015, the United Nations has encouraged the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to carry out educational and economic development campaigns, to obtain quality education and job development throughout the world, by 2030. Emphasizing educational campaigns allows those impoverished the opportunities to enhance their quality of life. Embrace Relief organizes educational campaigns in the United States and abroad. Embrace Relief fulfills SDGs 4 and 8 by assisting schools, running afterschool programs, donating supplies, and granting scholarships.

5 Gender Equality

10 Reduced Inequalities

SDGs 5 and 10 look to achieve gender, social, financial, and education equality.

General Information

- Over 60% of the world's illiterate are female
- Globally, women complete about three times more household work than men.
- Only 13% of women own their own land to grow food, crops, and raise livestock.
- The majority of the world's undernourished population are women.
- Approximately 23% of women worldwide serve in their countries' national legislatures, which results in an under representation of women's issues in government.



Background

Globally, women are stereotyped as the caregiver of the family and the person responsible for the household chores. In developing countries, women daily walk far distances to access clean water at a water well, raise their children and act as the main caretaker of the household. Developing countries often ban women from accessing health care as well as limiting their political and economic involvement due to social stigmas. Consequently, women in developing countries often cannot work nor hold independent financial assets.

Women in developing countries are at a disadvantage. Without access to healthcare and the inability to easily access water wells to practice WASH initiatives, women cannot prevent or treat health conditions. This leaves women dependent on men for providing healthcare services and other basic necessities, including financial assets.

Global Impact of the problem

The majority of the world’s population suffering from poverty, malnutrition, and are lacking water, healthcare, and education are women.



These boxes portray the progression of how NGOs establish the foundations for the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to work with developing countries to create equitable opportunities for all.

Short-term solutions intend to resolve problems in the immediate or near future. Promoting overall equality, by offering equal access to community water wells, food, education, and healthcare can help close the gaps in gender and economic inequalities.

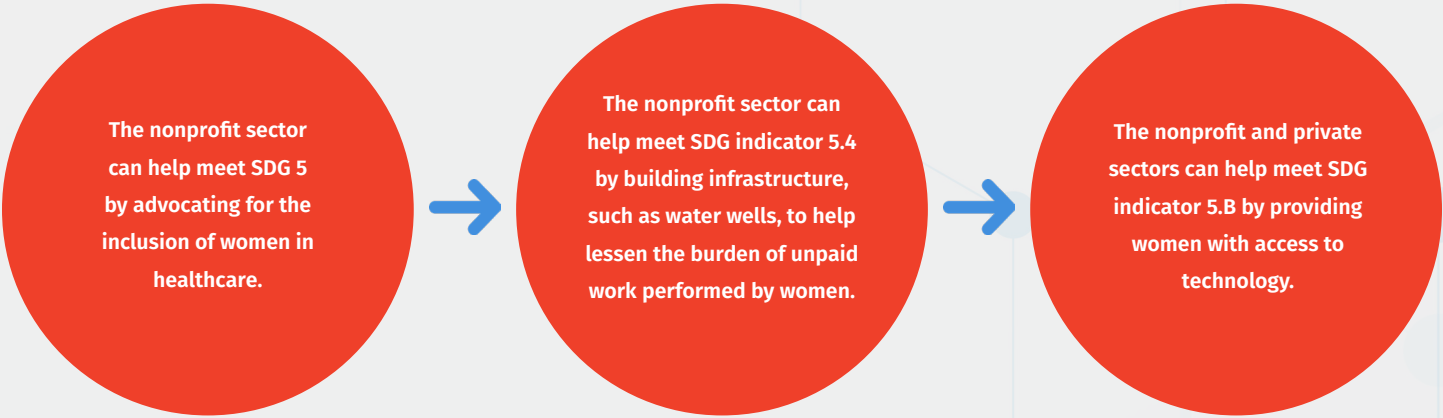
Long-term solutions intend to resolve problems in the distant future. Without NGOs’ short-term solutions, the international community would not be able to combat problems requiring long-term solutions. Water wells developed with IWRM allow women to raise crops and livestock and engage in WASH initiatives. Providing short-term solutions can lead to the long-term creation of an equitable society, as people of all genders can engage in the work force and achieve financial independence. Consequently, this can lead to the elimination of social, political, and economic inequalities.

Coherence Between SDGs 5 and 10

“Even the fact that someone is thinking of us is enough to bolster our morale. Our children are praying for you.”

H.P.- Head of a household split between two countries

SDGs 5 and 10 aspire to achieve gender, social, financial, and educational equality. SDG 5 advocates for women to be granted equal access to political, financial, and social opportunities. SDG 10 seeks to ensure that inequality is eliminated for all people.



The Ways To Accelerate SDGs 5 and 10

These boxes highlight potential efforts to support the creation of universal equality.



Campaigns designed to achieve a specific SDG may also unintentionally meet other SDGs. For example, SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 can help meet SDGs 5 and 10. By empowering women to achieve financial independence, women will be able to sustain themselves through various means, such as growing crops, which in turn, will support the elimination of hunger and poverty.

Embrace Relief's Contributions to the Realization of SDGs 5 and 10

- In Haiti, Embrace Relief trained caregivers of an orphanage to create jewelry, which in turn, produces jobs.
- In the United States, Embrace Relief offered women e-commerce vocational training to enable them to sell goods on the Internet.
- Embrace Relief works with the Lotus Welfare Association in Kenya and The Dogodogo Centre in Tanzania to provide women with the opportunity to learn how to sew. Embrace Relief offers girls and women sewing machines and lessons to help them enhance their skills and secure capital for commercial and self-employment.



Since 2015, the United Nations has encouraged the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to carry out gender and economic equality campaigns, to obtain equality for all throughout the world, by 2030. Working to achieve gender equality, Embrace Relief and its partners in Haiti, Kenya, and the United States conduct Women Empowerment programs designed to teach women the skills they need to pursue a job in the workforce. Empowering women to join the workforce not only promotes gender equality, but also increases national GDP and can eliminate economic inequalities. As a result, Embrace Relief meets SDGs 1, 5 and 8

Looking Forward

The correlation between the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and Embrace Relief's initiatives is apparent. Future Embrace Relief initiatives will continue to contribute to the full realization of the SDGs. One example of this is Embrace Relief's commitment to construct at least 3,000 hand pump operated wells in developing countries by 2020. In achieving this organizational aim, we will provide over 3 million people with fresh water resources and advance the targets of both SDGs 3 and 6.

Beyond providing people with basic necessities such as clean water, Embrace Relief is dedicated to developing and implementing sustainable, research-based initiatives that will have lasting impacts. For example, a project currently in the implementation phase is our ICT Education Program which provides computers to children with limited access to technology in Kenya and Tanzania. These computers are designed to deliver educational content without internet access. Bearing in mind the strong correlation between education and economic progress as outlined in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in SDG Target 4.7, this project will lead to improving the quality of life for children and their wider communities. This initiative will serve the expansion of SDGs 1, 4, 8, and 9.

Our computer program is one of many projects implemented with the aim of achieving sustainable social and economic progress. Together, these initiatives highlight an organizational commitment focused on contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By aligning domestic and international initiatives with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, Embrace Relief is committed to creating a lasting impact in the lives of individuals locally and globally.

For information about the references used, please see the SDG General Report Appendix available on our website, www.embracerelief.org.



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